

page 53 they feel almost sure that *Littorina palliata* will fall under *L. littoralis*.

A curious fact has lately come under my observation, which is evidence in favour of Messrs. Forbes and Hanley's opinion. On the 19th of December 1851, whilst searching the region of *Fucus nodosus* and *F. vesiculosus*, I obtained several examples of the male *Littorina rudis* in copulation with *Littorina littoralis* (formerly *Nerita littoralis*): in every instance *rudis* was the male. What will their progeny be like? I think we find it in *Littorina palliata*; the characters of the two former are so intimately blended in *L. palliata*. It may be described as a *littoralis* with the convex whorls and rounded body, and I may add, the spire of *rudis*, whilst the smaller size and the narrower basal confluence of the lips may fairly enough be considered as the effect of hybridism. From these circumstances I infer *Littorina palliata* to be the hybrid progeny of *L. rudis* (male) and a female *L. littoralis*. The only doubt in my mind as to this inference is, that I have not as yet found any specimens of *L. palliata* on this coast; but neither have I found any other shell that might in any way be considered as the produce of *rudis* and *littoralis*. I found in all eight couples; and I think, that the copulation being only chance, the probability of the unfruitfulness of some (which probability is greater than in cases where both are of the same species), and the further probability of the hybrids not being prolific—taking all these together,—will, I think, form just grounds for the rarity of the species.

Should this prove to be the case, it will be a question whether *L. palliata* is entitled to be considered a species or merely a variety. If it be capable of reproducing like Mollusca, I think it should be retained as a species; it may be a question, however, whether a hybrid incapable of reproduction is entitled to be considered a species.

Gentlemen, yours obediently,

WILLIAM THOMPSON.

#### NEW LOCALITY FOR TULOSTOMA MAMMOSUM.

*To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.*

The Willows, Swansea, June 9, 1852.

GENTLEMEN,—Believing the plant mentioned below to be somewhat rare, I shall be obliged by your insertion of the following:—

*Tulostoma mammosum*, near Pennard Castle, Glamorganshire. Found only on one spot—not very plentiful there.

Your obedient servant,

MATTHEW MOGGRIDGE.

#### *On the Preservation of the Fecundated Eggs of Fishes.*

By M. COSTE.

I communicated to the Academy, at a previous meeting, the result of an experiment tending to prove that it was possible to preserve the eggs of salmon and trout out of the water a sufficient time to transport them to great distances and to make them hatch in places where it was desired to introduce these fish. The following fact shows that

these eggs can be preserved during more than two months without losing the power of development. If this fact be confirmed, we shall possess the means of procuring species living in distant parts of the globe and acclimatizing them in regions which they have never yet inhabited. This result, obtained by MM. Berthot and Detzem, is evidently of great importance; the following are the means adopted by these gentlemen.

Eggs of salmon artificially fecundated were placed in a deal box in layers alternating with damp sand. The box was then placed, for two months, in a cold room, the temperature of which, however, was sufficiently high to preserve them from freezing. At the expiration of this time the eggs were shrivelled, and before taking them out of the box they were placed in water so that they might become moistened through the sand with which they were covered; for when this precaution is neglected, they perish.

Some of these eggs were sent to me by MM. Berthot and Detzem. I placed them in my apparatus, where they have since hatched. The experiment has therefore succeeded.—*Comptes Rendus*, April 5, 1852, p. 507.

POSTSCRIPT TO MR. CLARK'S PAPER ON RARE BRITISH MOLLUSCA  
AT PAGE 22.

June 23.—The *Chemnitzia* I mentioned yesterday turned out to be the *Chem. obliqua*, with a perfectly smooth shell; and after I had despatched my postscript note I met with the *Chem. decorata*, an animal of more modest pretensions, having the basal volution of the shell finely and superficially striated. This discovery settles the distinctness of the two, which I doubted, having stated in vol. vii. p. 394 of the N. S. of the 'Annals,' that the *C. decorata* is the *C. obliqua*: I make this admission with the reservation that my present shell is the *obliqua*, if such a species is in esse. And this morning I captured the rare *Chem. insculpta* alive. I have notes of the three animals of this peculiar little section of the *Chemnitzia*.

IRISH MOLLUSCA.

*To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.*

Windsor Lodge, Monkstown, co. Dublin,  
May 22, 1852.

GENTLEMEN,—The following Mollusca have been obtained by me off the Dublin coast, some of which are new to that locality: will you please at your earliest convenience to publish their occurrence?

*Teredo megotara*, Hanley. Drift wood, Killiney Bay.

*Xylophaga dorsalis*, Turton. Some very fine live specimens were trawled off the Skerrie Islands.

*Sphænia Binghami*, Turton. In the thick valves of *Ostrea edulis*: dredged in Dalkey Sound, 14 fathoms.

*Thracia villosiuscula*, Macgillivray. Dredged in about 14 fathoms, Dalkey Sound.

*T. convexa*, Wood. Trawled off Skerries.

*Solecurtus coarctatus*, Gmelin. Same locality as the last.